



# VILLAGE OF PROGRESS

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE • 1969-2019

The Village View - Fall 2019

Volume L Number 4



## Director's Note:

With our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year coming to a close, I kind of feel like the host of a well-attended house party at the end of the evening – a lull in activities, the guests have left, but a lot of great memories still linger in the air.

A lot happened at our year-long party. The things that I look back on this year include:

- The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House in August attracted about 300 well-wishers who expressed their appreciation for the Village, its history, and its ongoing role in the community.
- An uplifting and gratitude-filled evening at our Annual Banquet.
- A very gracious recognition by the Autumn on Parade Committee which recognized the Village as a Unit of Honor this year.
- A hugely successful golf outing this past summer that drew a record number of golfers and donors
- An ever growing group of volunteers who welcome our men and women with enthusiasm and warmth.
- The TOSOC bike ride this fall which was attended by many enthusiastic, if slightly soggy, bicyclists.

And now, with just a few items left (the annual Christmas party, Christmas Card Judging Contest, and Christmas wish list), we're almost ready to call it a year. But what a wonderful year it's been.

For me personally, one of the greatest joys was paging through the Village's scrapbooks. Though damaged by the Great Flood of '17, there remain drawers filled with photos, letters, and newspaper clippings from the late 60s and early 70s. What a heady time for the Village as it was launched and took flight. There's such joy on the faces of the men and women we've served as photo after photo showed their involvement in Special Olympics, our Explorer Scout Post 555 for adults with disabilities, marches in parades, and involvement in various work activities.

Related to that, it was incredibly heartwarming to learn about the passion and dedication of parents in the 50's and 60's who envisioned a better future for their children with disabilities. I was also struck by the compassion of Ogle County residents when they voted to approve the 708 Mental Health & Disabilities referendum.

It's humbling to look back and see that we've witnessed a legacy of service now spanning over two generations.

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## THE VILLAGE VIEW

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PO Box 418, 710 S. 13th St.,  
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Brion Brooks

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## Director's Note (continued):

In a larger way, I feel that what I experienced this year is a small sample of what we all realize when we spend enough time reflecting on our past – that in reality all of us owe such a debt of gratitude to friends, family, and acquaintances who have gone on before us. “A great cloud of witnesses” as St. Paul once put it.

I am so grateful for that cloud of witnesses that envisioned and launched this little agency. I'm grateful for those who have been its faithful stewards and supporters along these past 50 years.

And I'm grateful to you, reader, for supporting us in so many various ways. As you bear witness to our work, we bear witness to your generosity and grace.

It's been a great year.

Thank you.

*Brion Brooks, Executive Director*



## New VOP Foundation Board Member Brett Herrmann

The Village of Progress Foundation welcomes Brett Herrmann to The Village of Progress Foundation Board.

Brett Herrmann continues a legacy of service to the Village of Progress that started with his grandfather who was one of the founding board members in 1969.

Brett is a staff engineer at Bergstrom Incorporated in Rockford.

He earned a bachelor of Science degree from Northern Illinois University. Brett lives in Rochelle with his wife Brenda. He has 3 children and 3 grandchildren.

Brett is a member of the SAE( Society of Automotive Engineer) where he is a voting member and author of several industry specifications and standards. Brett holds multiple patents for designs of various HVAC systems and components for commercial vehicles.

Please extend a warm welcome to Brett Herrmann.

## JJ's Dilemma

JJ had a dilemma - he wanted to be productive and work on contract jobs but a regular job table didn't meet his specific needs. A custom ordered table was cost prohibitive. The solution came from a crew headed by a creative production manager, Karen Kereven, and willing friends/co-workers—Nick, Kelli, Jeremy and Julius. This crew combined with JJ's input, a fifty dollar budget, and an old PVC chair, resulted in a fully functional work table. The work table enables him to reach supplies and package parts. They exemplify how team-work towards a common objective can be empowering.



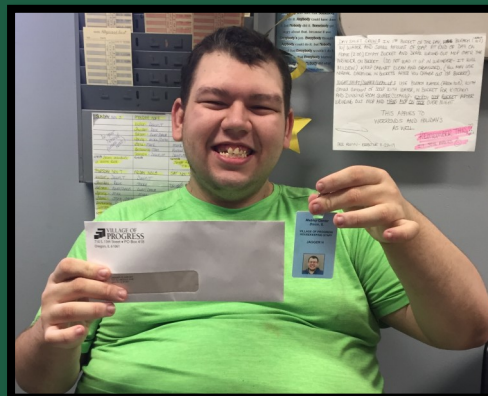
## Special Olympic Bowling

On November 2, 2019, we took part in the sectional bowling competition held in Loves Park at Cherry Bowl. The Village of Progress had three team members advance from the area bowl - Jeremy Reynolds, Abby Wolff, and John Miller. John Miller received first in his division - so he will be moving on to the state competition held in Peoria. Best of Luck John!



We would like to introduce you to Jagger Harvey. He just started working on October 22, 2019 at The Jack Mabley Center in Dixon as part of The Village Cleaning Service. This is his first paycheck in his life!

## Jagger Harvey



## IMPORTANT DATES AT THE VILLAGE OF PROGRESS

**CLOSED -  
THANKSGIVING  
NOVEMBER  
28TH & 29TH**

**ANGEL BALL  
DECEMBER 7, 2019  
@ BARNACOPIA**

**CLOSED -  
CHRISTMAS &  
NEW YEARS  
DECEMBER 24TH -  
JANUARY 1ST**

**CLOSED -  
MARTIN LUTHER  
KINGS BIRTHDAY  
JANUARY 20TH**

**CLOSED -  
PRESIDENT'S DAY  
FEBRUARY 17TH**

**CLOSED -  
SPRING BREAK  
MARCH 23RD -  
MARCH 27TH**

**CLOSED -  
GOOD FRIDAY  
APRIL 10TH**

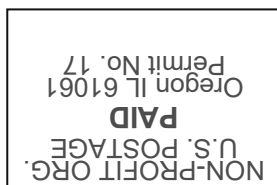
**UNSCHEDULED CLOSURES  
WILL IMPACT OUR  
SCHEDULED CLOSINGS.**

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# Village of Progress held its 50th Annual Banquet

Last month the Village held its **50th Annual Banquet!** We recognized five individuals for their outstanding service to the Village.

**Diane Bicknese** received the Robert Stahl Friendship Award. Two personal achievement awards were given: The John Herrmann Personal Achievement Award was given to **Adam Oltmanns** and the Robert Moehle Personal Achievement Award went to **Virginia Saldana**.



**Tony Yates** was singled out to receive the Carly Heller Special Olympian Award and **John Young** was honored with the Fred Smith Competitive Employment Award for his work for the Village Cleaning Service.

In addition to extending recognition and thanks to those who work inside the Village, the night also provided an opportunity to recognize the generosity of those outside our facility.



The Rick Hahn Business of the Year was presented to the **Oregon McDonald's** - who offers employment opportunities to folks at the Village and Ogle County Special Education students.

We provided Byron high school senior, **Kennedy Markham**, with a scholarship – Kennedy is pursuing a career in Special Education.

The Village was honored to extend the Janie Etnyre Volunteer of the Year award to **Frank Swingel**. Frank volunteers weekly, using his teaching skills to work with individuals on specific goals and objectives.



Finally, two Robert Stouffer Special Recognition Awards were given this year. **Crest Foods** received it for being such a great resource and true friend to the Village. **Craig Carpenter** was honored for his financial leadership during the 2008 recession which allowed the Village to not just survive but thrive during a very difficult period for the state and all nonprofits.



The Annual Banquet is more than a night of awards given and received. It's a night of thanks extended and gratitude returned. And that is what makes it such a wonderful place to spend an evening

**VILLAGE OF PROGRESS FALL BANQUET DONORS:** Jackie Birdwell • Wanda Cacciatore • Richard & Ruth Carter • Crisham Family Dental • Joe & Dawn Clinton • Design Enhanced Manufacturing • Don & Nancy Etnyre • Dave & Cindy Gesin • William & Suzanne Gilkerson • David Guest • Thomas & Laurie Guest • Ken & Delores Haak • Hagemann Enterprises • Sharlene Hartzell • Harvard State Bank • Phillip & Carol Houston • Angela Larson • Mark & Myrna Lohman • Chris Martin • Merlin's Flowers & Greenhouse • Dirk & Jenny Meminger • Rochelle Chiropractic Clinic • Snyder Pharmacy • White Pines Inn • Kathi Wilson • Larry & Joan Young • Dick & Cecelia Zimmerman • **SPECIAL THANKS TO:** FN Smith Corporation and KSB Partner in Health who contributed money specifically for the printing of our annual report.





# 4th Annual TOSOC



TOSOC – the Tour of Scenic Ogle County was held on Saturday, September 28th. While it was a misty day by the time registration closed, over 200 cyclists had signed up and were out on the road. TOSOC was developed with the help of Oregon resident, cycling enthusiast and VOP Volunteer Scott Stephens. Stephens was instrumental in developing a number of biking routes around Ogle County, including the TOSOC routes.

TOSOC had three cycling routes to choose from. The first was a 10 mile family ride through Oregon. Developed with the help of the Oregon Park District, this ride toured a number of the city's parks. A 32 mile route took cyclists through Grand Detour (stopping at the John Deere Historical Museum) and the Nachusa Grasslands for Bison viewing. A 62 mile loop added in some of the scenic areas north of Mount Morris and west of Daysville.

By the end of the day, TOSOC netted over \$9,000 for the Village's Attendance Grant Program. Attendance Grants were developed by the Village in 2014 because so many people with disabilities, people who are entitled to services, cannot receive them because Illinois lacks the funding. Attendance grants are awarded to men and women in Ogle County, enabling them to attend the Village on a part time basis. Search TOSOC on Facebook for pictures and for more information or email: [TOSOC@villageofprogress.org](mailto:TOSOC@villageofprogress.org).

**THANK YOU! - TOSOC partners and sponsors:** Black Hawk Water Way Central Bank • Crest Foods • Exelon Generation • Felker Foods • Fischers, Inc. • F.N. Smith Corp. • Green River Cyclery • KSB Partner in Health • Oregon Ace Hardware • Oregon Autobody • Oregon Lions Club • Oregon Park District • Oregon Women's Club • Sauk Valley Bank • Stephens State Farm • Sterling Federal Bank • Stillman Bank • The Harvard State Bank • The Village Bakery • The Village Yarn Shop •

